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Bo Valdemar Vaaben

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HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. BOX 828
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303

EXAMINER

JOSEPH, TONYA S

ART UNIT

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MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/02/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

Claims 1-10 and 32 have been previously examined. Claims 1-2 and 32 have been amended. No claims have been added. No claims have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-10 and 32 are presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 01/07/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues with respect to claim 1 that Silvka is different from Applicant's claimed invention because of the following bolded text:

grouping the objects in the disruption specification to be rescheduled into subproblems, wherein each said subproblem is defined by each one of the objects therein having the same original origin and destination;
applying a first algorithm to each said subproblem ***without allowing varying the origin and destination of the objects in the subproblem***, and reaching a plurality of initial solutions that represent a rescheduling for each said object in each said subproblem;
identifying a subclass of objects that have been unsuitably rescheduled in the initial solutions; and ***applying a second algorithm for rescheduling the subclass of objects that allows varying the original itinerary*** to generate rescheduling solutions for the subclass of objects. The Examiner disagrees. Slivka plainly teaches the bolded limitations (see the most previous Office Action dated, 01/07/2009 pg. 3).

Applicant's arguments provide only conclusary statements, i.e. ("fundamentally

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different” or “different”) with no rationale as to why the references are insufficient. The Examiner asserts that Slivka teaches Applicant's claimed invention and the rejection is maintained.

Applicant further argues that Yu does not teach using a third algorithm to modify a specific group that has been previously determined to have been unsuitably rescheduled in a prior operation. The Examiner disagrees. Yu plainly teaches applying a third algorithm to an IP previously modified group (see Col. 14 lines 26-44). Furthermore the repetitive step of applying of a third algorithm to an unsuitably scheduled grouping would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. The mere duplication of steps has no patentable significance unless a new and unexpected result is achieved. In this instance the expected result is a new itinerary generated from previously unsuitable itineraries.

Accordingly, Applicant's arguments are not persuasive and the rejections are maintained.

Examiner Note: Applicant has not challenged Examiner's use of Official Notice with respect to the subject matter of claims 8 and 10. Thus, the Examiner's use of Official Notice of the pertinent facts is considered admitted prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claim 1, 6-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Slivka U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2003/0225600 A1.

3. As per Claim 1, Slivka teaches receiving a disruption specification based upon an event (see para. 14), the disruption specification including data identifying the objects to be rescheduled (see para. 14-15);

receiving a request for rescheduling of the objects from a user (see para. 36);

grouping the objects in the disruption specification to be rescheduled into sub problems (see para. 7 and 46), wherein each said sub problem is defined by each one of the objects therein having the same original origin and destination (see para. 7);

applying a first algorithm to each said sub problem without allowing varying the origin and destination of the objects in the sub problem(see para. 14 and 34), and reaching a plurality of initial solutions that represent a rescheduling for each said object in each said subproblem (see para. 46);

identifying a subclass of objects that have been unsuitably rescheduled in the initial solutions (see para. 46 and 47); and

applying a second algorithm for rescheduling the subclass of objects that allows varying the original itinerary to generate rescheduling solutions for the subclass of objects (see para. 47 and 51).

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4. As per Claim 6, Slivka teaches the method of claim 1 as described above. Slivka further teaches wherein the subclass of objects to be rerouted are identified based upon a suitably of rescheduling criteria (see para.46 and 52).

5. As per Claim 7, Slivka teaches the method of claim 6 as described above. Slivka further teaches wherein identifying the subclass includes determining a cost for each rescheduled object and comparing the cost to a threshold (see para. 39-41).

6. As per Claim 9, Slivka teaches the method of claim 1 as described above. Slivka further teaches wherein the rescheduling solutions include upgrading, downgrading, delaying, and offloading the objects (see para. 36, 47 and 50).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 2, 4 and 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slivka U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2003/0225600 A1 in view of Yu U.S. Patent No. 6314361.

9. As per Claim 2, Slivka teaches the method of claim 1 as described above. Slivka does not explicitly teach the limitation taught by Yu a third algorithm (see Col. 6 lines 17-65 and Col. 14 lines 26-45). It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method of Slivka to include the teachings of Yu to determine a more optimal solution.

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10. As per Claim 4, Slivka in view of Yu teaches the method of claim 2 as described above. Slivka further teaches excluding the subclass of objects from the objects that need to be rescheduled in the disruption specification (see para. 37 and 46) and applying a fourth algorithm to the remaining objects in the reduced disruption specification to determine rescheduling solutions for the remaining objects (see para. 47 and Fig. 3).

11. As per Claim 32, Slivka teaches receiving a disruption specification based upon an event (see para. 14), the disruption specification including data identifying the objects to be rescheduled (see para. 14-15);

receiving a request for rescheduling of the objects from a user (see para. 36);

grouping the objects in the disruption specification to be rescheduled into sub problems (see para. 7 and 46), wherein each said sub problem is defined by each one of the objects therein having the same original origin and destination (see para. 7);

applying a first algorithm to each sub problem without allowing varying the origin and destination of the objects in the sub problem (see para. 14 and 34), and reaching a plurality of initial solutions that represent a rescheduling for each said object in each said subproblem (see para. 46);

identifying a subclass of objects that are unsuitably rescheduled in the initial solutions (see para. 46 and 47); and

applying a second algorithm for rescheduling the subclass that allows varying the original itinerary to generate rescheduling solutions for the subclass (see para. 47 and 51). Slivka does not explicitly teach the limitation taught by Yu, applying a third

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algorithm to said rescheduling solutions to remove selected ones of said rescheduling solutions, to create a set of optimal rescheduling solutions (see Col. 6 lines 17-65 and Col. 14 lines 26-45). It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method of Slivka to include the teachings of Yu to determine a more optimal solution.

12. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slivka U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2003/0225600 A1 in view of Yu U.S. Patent No. 6314361 in further view of Thangvall U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No 2003/0105656.

13. As per Claim 3, Slivka in view of Yu teaches the method of claim 2 as described above. Slivka does not explicitly teach the limitation taught by Thangvall third algorithm is an IP algorithm with a branch and bound technique (see para. 13). It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the methods of Slivka and Yu to include the teachings of Thangvall to evoke a particular optimization technique.

14. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slivka U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2003/0225600 A1 in view of Yu U.S. Patent No. 6314361 in further view of Official Notice

15. As per Claim 5, Slivka in view of Yu teaches the method of claim 4 as described above. Slivka does not explicitly teach wherein the first and fourth algorithms are transportation simplex algorithms. Official Notice is taken that using transportation simplex algorithms to solve problems is old and well known. It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the

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method of Slivka to include the teaching of Official Notice to achieve an optimized solution.

16. Claims 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slivka U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2003/0225600 A1 in view of Official Notice.

17. As per Claim 8, Slivka teaches the method of claim 1 as described above. Slivka does not explicitly teach, wherein the objects are passengers traveling one or more legs between the origin and the destination. Official Notice is taken that the objects are passengers traveling one or more legs between the origin and the destination is old and well known. It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method of Slivka to include the teachings of Official Notice in order to provide an optimization solution for disrupted passengers.

18. As per Claim 10, Slivka teaches the method of claim 1 as described above. Slivka does not explicitly teach wherein the second algorithm is selected from the group consisting of the Dijkstra algorithm and a K-shortest path algorithm. Official Notice is taken that using a Dijkstra or K-shortest path algorithm is old and well known. It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method of Slivka to include the teachings of Official Notice in order to alter the results of an optimization equation.

Conclusion

19. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TONYA JOSEPH whose telephone number is (571)270-1361. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30am-5:00pm First Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Hayes can be reached on 571 272 0847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Tonya Joseph
Examiner
Art Unit 3628

/John W Hayes/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3628